

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1269

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19352

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, TH, CH

SUBJECT: PRC ADVANCE TEAM TO BANGKOK

1. SINCE PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT'S TRIP TO PEKING IN JUNE, 1975 THE SIZE, TIMING, AND COMPOSITION OF THE RETURN PRC DELEGATION TO THAILAND HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF SPECULATION BY THE LOCAL PRESS. AS THE TIME FOR THEIR ARRIVAL APPEARS TO DRAW NEAR, ARTICLES ON THE PRC DELEGATION FLOURISH ALMOST DAILY, SPECULATING ON WHO WILL HEAD THE DELEGATION, WHEN THE ADVANCE TEAM WILL ARRIVE AND AMBASSADORS WILL BE EXCHANGED, AND WHO WILL BE THE THAI AMBASSADOR TO PEKING.

2. AFTER SIFTING THROUGH THE PLETHORA OF RUMORS, THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT THE ADVANCE PRC TEAM WILL BE HERE IN MID-OCTOBER. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI AND FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, NITSAI WETCHACHIWA, SOURCE THIS INFORMATION TO THE PRC DELEGATION TO THE UN VIA THE THAI UN DELEGATION. CHATCHAI ALSO DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A LIST OF THOSE PRC OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE IN THE ADVANCE PARTY. THE TIMING FOR THE EXCHANGE OF
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AMBASSADORS IS STILL UNCERTAIN DUE TO THE MANY VARIABLES

ASSOCIATED WITH ADVANCE TEAM'S PREPARATIONS. PRC FOREIGN MINISTER TENG HSIAO P'ING'S REPORTED PLANS TO MAKE A STATE VISIT TO THAILAND ARE EQUALLY UNCERTAIN, THOUGH PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT IS REPORTED IN THE BANGKOK PRESS AS PREDICTING HIS ARRIVAL AROUND MID TO LATE NOVEMBER.

3. AS FOR THE THAI AMBASSADOR TO PEKING, CHATCHAI STATED THAT NEITHER FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, NITSAL, NOR THAI AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, SOMPONG SUCHARITKUN, WOULD BE THE THAI AMBASSADOR TO PEKING. BOTH MEN HAD BEEN CONSIDERED AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR THE POST.

4. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NOT RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH MFA, AS THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THAI/PRC RELATIONS IS STILL AT AN EARLY STAGE, AND A NUMBER OF RTG DECISIONS ON PERSONNEL MATTERS RELATED TO THE THAI EMBASSY IN PEKING REMAIN TO BE MADE.
MASTERS

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NNN

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